

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3-8 have been amended as a result of this response. Claim 2 has been canceled. New claims 9-17 have been added. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 and dependent claims 3-17 stand in condition for allowance.

I. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sugiyama et al. (U.S. 6,731,252). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the feature of claim 2 and as indicated by the Examiner in the Office Action should now be in condition for allowance. Claims 3-8 should be allowable by virtue of their dependency on independent claim 1.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 2-8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

All matters having been addressed in view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the immediate allowance of all pending claims.

Applicants' undersigned representative remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this matter. If any point remains an issue in which the Examiner feels would be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

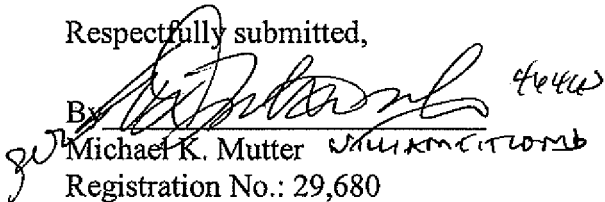
Application No. 10/573,983
Amendment dated April 8, 2008
Reply to Office Action of January 18, 2008

Docket No.: 1163-0561PUS1

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account No. 02-2448. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any overpayments to the above-referenced deposit account.

Dated: April 8, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By  *4/8/08*
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